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## REFERENCES

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- 1 Many Sasanian monuments and buildings have only general chronology and therefore it is not clear at the reign of which king a building was constructed or used. Furthermore, many of the diagnostic monuments have been dated to the late Sasanian-early Islamic era because of the existence of architectural elements known in the Islamic period. This important paper provides new chronology through the AMS Radiocarbon dating results of five timber fragments (cypress wood) which were used in the construction of the buildings in Fīrūzābād (Qaleh Dokhtar and Palace of Ardašīr) and Sārvestān (Kakh-e Sāsān).

- 2 These AMS-radiocarbon dating results show that: Qaleh Dokhtar was built in the late Parthian and early Sasanian periods (AD 115–246 [confidence -  $2\sigma$  range: 0.95]), Palace of Ardašīr was built between AD 124 and 257 ( $2\sigma$  range: 0.95), and the Palace of Sārvestān (Kakh-e Sāsān) was built during the transitional and early Islamic period (AD 655–887 [ $2\sigma$  range: 0.74/ 0.78]).
  - 3 Moreover, the xylological study also indicates the use of the cypress timber in Sasanian architecture, especially the Mediterranean cypress which was certainly cultivated in the region. If the dated wood samples (table 1) belongs to the initial construction period and not to a restoration period, then this new AMS-radiocarbon dating would remove doubts about the construction of these buildings, especially the Palace of Sārvestān (Kakh-e Sāsān).
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## AUTHORS

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